

son, and I am very much surprised that any question has ever been raised concerning the superiority of the spring salmon for canning.

The statement which has been made that the fall salmon is unfit for food is not, however, by any means true. The flesh of the salmon is entirely different at that season, and inferior; but if the fish is not too far spent, it is not unfit for food. Indeed, it makes, when very fresh and well cooked, a decidedly edible dish.

Many salmon, however, in the fall become blind and very much emaciated, lose much of their fins and tail, and become covered with white blotches of fungus, being altogether very repulsive in appearance. On the whole, I should say that fall salmon are fish that one should be very cautious about canning, as the flesh is inferior, spoils very soon, and might possibly be furnished by unscrupulous persons from fish too far gone to be wholesome.

On the other hand, I must say that the Indians eat the fall salmon even in their most advanced stages of emaciation and disease, and never seem to suffer any ill effects from it. Furthermore, there is a salmon or trout in the Columbia River called the "square-tailed salmon" (or "trout") (*Salmo truncatus* Suckley), which spawns in spring. This fish, of course, is in its best condition in fall and early winter, and there can consequently be no objection to its being canned at that time.

CHARLESTOWN, N. H., May 16, 1887.

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**32.—THE FISHERIES OF GLOUCESTER, MASS., IN JANUARY, 1887,  
WITH NOTES ON THOSE OF OTHER LOCALITIES.**

**By W. A. WILCOX.**

During the month of January only a small portion of the fishing fleet has been actively employed. Receipts have been light, not varying much from those of the corresponding month of one year ago. For several years the new year has opened with a market overstocked with both domestic and imported fish, and prices so low as to scarcely pay the cost of production, but during the present month a largely increased and steady demand has reduced stocks, and prices have slowly advanced.

Since the beginning of the year much rough weather has been encountered, but there have been no serious losses of life or property, and much encouragement is felt in making preparations for the work of 1887.

Bait has been found abundant on the fishing banks, and additional quantities have been supplied from the cargoes of frozen herring brought from Newfoundland and the Bay of Fundy.

A few vessels have followed the fresh halibut fishery on the Grand Bank. These arrived with small fares, and reported much rough weather. The shore fleet has been detained in the harbors adjacent to the fishing grounds a large part of the month, the weather preventing extensive fishing. The Bay of Fundy herring catch has been light. Schooner Ada R. Terry, of Gloucester, arrived on January 5th with a

cargo of 210,000 frozen herring in number. This was the first cargo landed during the season. Vessels that went to Newfoundland for frozen herring are now arriving with full cargoes and report herring of good size and quality to have been plentiful.

When the weather has been favorable the U. S. Fish Commission schooner Grampus, Captain Collins, has engaged in collecting codfish spawn direct from the fishing grounds near Cape Ann and carrying them to the hatching station at Wood's Holl. She has also brought large quantities of young fish from the hatchery and turned them loose in the in-shore waters. The Grampus and other boats of the U. S. Fish Commission from Wood's Holl have during the season planted about 20,000,000 young codfish in the vicinity of Cape Cod. This branch of the work has been prosecuted with success, the amount of eggs procured and hatched being limited only by the unfavorable weather that has much of the time prevented the taking of eggs on the fishing grounds.

The annual meeting of the Menhaden Oil and Guano Association was held at New York on January 12th. This fishery was formerly extensively prosecuted as far north as the coast of Maine, but is now confined to the coast between Narragansett Bay and North Carolina. During the past season the fish have been found in abundance and the members of the association report an average production of oil and scrap.

*Fish landed at Gloucester by the fishing fleet in January, 1887.*

Fishing grounds.	Number of fares.	Salt cod.	Fresh halibut.	Salt haddock.	Frozen herring.	Pickled herring.
		Pounds.	Pounds.	Pounds.	Number.	Barrels.
By Gloucester vessels:						
Western Bank .....	1	50,000				
Grand Bank .....	15		392,500			
Banquereau .....	1		15,000			
George's Bank .....	14	236,000	43,100			
Bay of Fundy .....	4				700,000	
Fortune Bay, Newfoundland .....	6				2,360,000	180
Barren Island, Newfoundland .....	1				50,000	1,100
New England shore:						
Trawl fishery .....	49	326,300		2,000		
Gill-net fishery .....	15	29,000				
By small boats .....		27,800				
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>669,100</b>	<b>450,600</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>3,200,000</b>	<b>1,280</b>
By vessels belonging at other ports: <sup>a</sup>						
New England shore:						
Gill-net fishery .....	3	9,800				
Trawl fishery .....	5	58,500				
Grand Bank .....	1		25,000			
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>68,300</b>	<b>25,000</b>			
<b>Total, January, 1887 .....</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>737,400</b>	<b>475,600</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>3,200,000</b>	<b>1,280</b>
<b>Total, January, 1886 .....</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>510,000</b>	<b>517,800</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>4,361,000</b>	<b>220</b>

NOTE.—The miscellaneous receipts from other ports consisted of 50 barrels pickled herring by the Boston and Maine Railroad.

<sup>a</sup>These fish were landed by the following schooners: Flora Temple, of Portland, Me.; Franklin Schenck and Mary S. Hontvet, of Portsmouth, N. H.; Eliza, of Marblehead, Mass.; E. A. Williams, of Boston, Mass.; Estelle S. Nunan and E. L. Sanborn, of Rockport, Mass.